



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
<http://latchildrencommission.org>**

**Monday, February 2, 2015**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (15-0642)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-0241)

Present: Commissioner Geneva Berger, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Sunny Kang, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Commissioner Wendy B. Smith, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

Excused: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin and Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Introductions of February 2, 2015 meeting attendees. (15-0243)

**Self-introductions were made.**

2. Approval of the February 2, 2015 Meeting Agenda (15-0244)

**On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kang (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar Macklin, Olivas, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission approved this item.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2014. (Continued from meeting of 1-5-15) (15-0052)

**On motion of Commissioner Seipel, seconded by Commissioner Sorkin (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Olivas, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission approved this item.**

**Attachments:**    [See Supporting Document](#)

4. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2014. (Continued from meeting of 1-5-15) (15-0053)

**On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Berger (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar-Macklin, Olivas, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission approved this item.**

**Attachments:**    [See Supporting Document](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

5. Vice Chair's report for February 2, 2015. (15-0245)

- **Vice Chair Biondi introduced the two newly appointed Commissioners: Dr. Wendy B. Smith and Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, who provided a brief summary of their backgrounds.**
- **The next Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at East Los Angeles College. The Commission is on the organization's mailing list, and will be receiving agendas and various types of information periodically.**
- **The next Transition Team for Office of Child Protection meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.**
- **The new telephone numbers for the Bellflower Courthouse are scheduled to go live on February 24, 2015; the current telephone numbers will be disconnected on March 10, 2015.**
- **The new telephone numbers for the Los Padrinos Juvenile Court are scheduled to go live on March 11, 2015; the current telephone numbers will be disconnected on March 26, 2015.**
- **One nominee for appointment to the Commission for Children and Families is on the Tuesday, February 3, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda.**

- **February 16, 2015 is President's Day Holiday; therefore, the Commission will not hold a meeting on that day.**
  - **The next Commission meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2015 at an offsite location to be determined.**
  - **Vice Chair Biondi thanked Commissioner Trevino Powell for her service on the Commission and announced that today will be Commissioner Trevino Powell's last meeting.**
  - **Commissioner Sorkin announced that she attended the Policy Roundtable for Childcare (Roundtable), and informed the Commission on the Chief Executive Office's reorganization. She indicated that the Roundtable is concerned as to where the Office of Childcare will be placed as a result of the reorganization and therefore the Roundtable intends to send a to the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding the Office of Childcare's work and their concerns on the reorganization. Commissioner informed the Commission that as a representative of the Roundtable, she will include her name on the letter if no objection by the Commission. County Counsel is reviewing the letter.**
- 6. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for February 2, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-0247)**
- Director Browning reported on the following:**
- **In preparation for retiring employees this year, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is working to identify individuals to take on the duties of the foreseen vacancies. Prior to an individual's retirement, internal overlap is taking place as a means to achieve a smooth transition of roles.**
  - **DCFS has hired 750 new social workers within the last 15 months. These hires come with experience from non profit organizations, other County Departments, or are graduates from a Masters in Social Work Program. Due to the influx of new hires, DCFS' Regional Offices are struggling to find work stations, computers, and iPhones to accommodate the new hires. DCFS is expected to fill all of its vacancies within the next month.**
  - **DCFS is working to update its Strategic Plan and is revising its current plan to incorporate recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection as well as Mayor Antonovich's**

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**Initiatives targeted at foster youth.**

- Automation is viewed as a solution to reduce the average workload of a DCFS social worker; therefore various initiatives related to information technology were included in the DCFS Strategic Plan.
- DCFS is required to provide three day advanced notice to all involved parties upon court summons. Currently, law does not allow for distributing these notices electronically; however electronic notices are being proposed to simplify processes and achieve a quicker turnaround.
- DCFS is encountering challenges with the 15 year olds and older age group that come into the Youth Welcome Center (YWC). Many of these youth are involved in the commercial sex trafficking business and often times refuse placement. When placement is found, them, they do not stay long. Weekly status reports are being sent to Mr. Browning and DCFS is assembling a group to address these issues.
- Currently, there are no State licensed nor State approved facilities that allow DCFS to keep a child more than 24 hours, forcing DCFS to make placement decisions within the 24 hours. DCFS is working to identify the repeat youth visitors at the Youth Welcome Center as these youth return throughout the week, which results in a violation of the 24 hour rule.
- Beginning next month, DCFS will have co-located mental health staff to assist youth who have mental health issues.
- DCFS received State funding and approval, and is working to develop a plan to roll out the pairing the Public Health Nurse with the Emergency Response Worker. A foreseen challenge is recruiting Public Health Nurses that are willing to work nontraditional working hours.
- The media has brought attention to the number of foster youth taking psychotropic medication in Northern California. DCFS observes a disconnect in the flow of information that prevents quantifying the number of children on psychotropic medication for Los Angeles County. DCFS has data on the types of psychotropic medications prescribed to a child and approved by a judge; however the data is limited as it does not show which of the prescriptions have actually been filled. The Department of Health Services' (DHS) database includes the payment information on filled prescriptions. Currently, legislation is being proposed at the State level that would allow access of these records; however, the issue is sensitive due to patient confidentiality laws.

- On January 28, 2015, DCFS demonstrated its Foster Care Search Engine. Prior to the application, a foster parent with a listed vacancy could receive over 100 phone calls daily from social workers of different facilities making placement difficult for the social workers. The new system has real time information, for instance when a placement is made, a social worker is able to denote this on the application, including instances where a foster child is found a permanent home.
- Several Counties have not opted to participate in the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Program (ARC) by the given deadlines. The mechanism to make ARC payments has been challenging as a payment methodology has not been identified. A proposal that payments be deposited to Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards for CalWORKS relative caregiver recipients is being considered. However, the EBT card payment methodology will be incompatible for non CalWORKS participants; therefore, DCFS continues to work with State staff, the County Welfare Director's Association of California (CWDA), and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to identify the methods to administer this Program.
- DCFS and the State have confirmed the number of cases considered for the July 1, 2014 ARC deadline to be 3,082 individuals. DCFS reported to the Board that the estimated Net County Cost is \$15 million over a five year period, based on the 3,082 figure. Currently, DCFS is working with DPSS to identify which department will assume primary responsibility for the ARC Program, as the State's final rules have yet to be promulgated.
- A point person from DCFS has been delegated to Sacramento for a year to aid in developing the requirements for the new Child Welfare system. This individual is knowledgeable about the eligibility process and has been working with DPSS to strategize workflows and cost analysis figures.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded:

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- The ARC Program will require DCFS employees to be trained on CalWORKS, or DPSS employees will have to be stationed at DCFS facilities to handle CalWORKS eligibility. Currently, DPSS eligibility workers in DCFS Regional Offices are GAIN worker linkages. A best practice is to minimize the number of workers that a relative caregiver has to correspond with.
  - In order to become eligible for the new ARC Program, applicants must apply for CalWORKS. The idea is that if an individual is eligible for CalWORKS, part of the payment would come from CalWORKS and the remainder would come from the \$30,000,000 State budget.
  - Taking advantage of the federally funded CalWORKS Program, results in cost avoidance for the State.
  - The ARC Program services those individuals that are not eligible for the federally funded Title IV E Wavier Program as relatives. The 3,082 relatives are not federally eligible; half are receiving CalWORKS payments of \$350, and the other half are not receiving payment.

By common consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar Macklin, Olivas, being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

### **III. UPDATE ON THE OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION**

7. Update by Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie on the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection. (15-0248)

**Ms. Leslie Gilbert Lurie updated on the following:**

- The Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection (TTOCP) is tasked with monitoring the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP). From these recommendations, a vision was established to keep children in Los Angeles County safe.
- As caretakers for both the County and the children, the TTOCP observed a number of points where the County can operate in ways to help maximize the potential of the children through collaboration.
- Rather than allowing children to merely survive in the Child Welfare System until they turn 18, the TTOCP is analyzing methods for these children to reach their full potential despite having been abused, neglected, and at risk.

- The TTOCP looks forward to a sense of transparency within County Departments so they may converse freely on the issues related to child welfare and provide supportive services needed. The TTOCP is happy with the funding allotted to the medical hubs. Through this funding, medical care will be provided immediately when needed and bring the hubs up to speed.
- The BRCCP Report recommended a large enhancing of technology in the County overall. The BRCCP is hopeful that the approval for the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E SCARS) will lead to fruitful results for law enforcement's ability to better track children upon reports of abuse and neglect.
- The TTOCP urges the County to be leaders on the forefront for the ARC program.
- The Interim Director for the Office of Child Protection, Fesia Davenport, informed that she will be meeting with the Co-Chairs on Monday, February 9, 2015 and has expressed interest in understanding the TTOCP's goals and priorities.
- The BRCCP was formed in the spirit of efficiency and collaboration, and believes that it would be helpful to look at all the child related commissions for the maximum benefit and efficiency to the children.

By common consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar Macklin, Olivas, being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Gilbert Lurie's update.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION**

8. Presentation by Sharon Rapport, Associate Director, and Angela Rosales, Program Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing on State funding for housing and services to support children and families in the child welfare system. (15-0335)

**Ms. Rapport and Ms. Rosales reported on the following:**

- The Corporation for Supportive Housing is a national organization focused on creating housing solutions for vulnerable individuals and families using strategies that maximize public resources and public benefits.

- **Bringing Families Home is a budget item that is being considered at the State level that will provide \$10,000,000 for counties to provide housing solutions and services to child welfare involved families. The counties will need to apply to the State for this funding that will be distributed utilizing a competitive process.**
- **Nearly half the children in foster care have a birth parent with a history of homelessness. As many as 30% of children in foster care have the potential to be reunited with families, assuming these families have a safe place to live. Homelessness is attributed as a barrier to family reunification.**
- **A study in New York used the Bringing Families Home model and demonstrated that 61% of child welfare cases were resolved within 10 months of the family being in a supportive housing intervention.**
- **The Corporation for Supportive Housing is focused on safe, affordable, and supported housing as a platform for families to exit homelessness and reduce incidence of foster care recidivism.**

**By common consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar Macklin, Olivas, being absent), the Commission received and filed the presentation.**

**Attachments:**    [See Supporting Document](#)  
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                              [See Supporting Document](#)



**V. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL**

9. Discussion and approval of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Report. (Continued from meeting of 1-5-15) (15-0063)

**The Commission's Fiscal Year 2013 14 Annual Report was approved with the following correction on page 15; under the header: "Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP) Initiatives", first bullet:**

**"The CCF recommends that the Board mandates clinic <(strikeout) client satisfaction surveys in every Department"**

**On motion of Commissioner Kang, seconded by Vice Chair Kamlager (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Konigar Macklin, Olivas, being absent), the Commission approved the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Commission for Children and Families Annual Report.**

**Attachments:** [See Supporting Document](#)

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

**Matters Not Posted**

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-0249)

**There were none.**

**Announcements**

11. Announcements for the meeting of February 2, 2015. (15-0251)

**There were none.**

**Public Comment**

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-0253)

**No members of the public addressed the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

13. Adjournment for the meeting of February 2, 2015. (15-0254)

**The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.**